

## ARNOLD HAWTHORN

*Crataegus x anomala* Sarg.  
plant symbol = CRAN6

Contributed By: USDA, NRCS, National Plant Data Center



Conservation Trees & Shrubs for Montana  
USDA, NRCS, Montana State Office

### Alternative Names

*Crataegus arnoldiana* (CRAR)

### Uses

**Economic:** Hawthorn fruits can be made into jams and jellies. The wood is very hard and strong and is ideal for tool handles and other small items.

**Medicinal:** Hawthorn fruits have been shown to have a tonic effect on the heart. They are often used in the treatment of weak heart conditions, especially if it is accompanied by high blood pressure.

**Landscaping & Wildlife:** *Crataegus arnoldiana* is a beautiful flowering species that is suitable for shading patios, decorating lawns, and lining streets. This shrub or small tree is often used to provide cover and food for a variety of birds and mammals. The fruit is useful for wildlife as it is held late into the year.

**Agroforestry:** Arnold hawthorn is used in forested riparian buffers to help reduce stream bank erosion, protect water quality, and enhance aquatic environments. Occasionally, it is used as a single

row shelterbelt, which is often added in with other varieties to create diversities.

### Status

Please consult the PLANTS Web site and your State Department of Natural Resources for this plant's current status, such as, state noxious status and wetland indicator values.

### Description

**General:** Arnold hawthorn is a very easily grown deciduous shrub or small tree growing fifteen to thirty feet tall. The leaves are simple, oval-shaped, 1.5 to 3 cm long with serrated edges. The fruit is clusters of white flowers that are born on the tips of branches in the spring and are followed by red fruit that ripen in mid summer and remain on twigs until early autumn. The twigs are gray to brown branches and stems that bear large stout thorns.

**Distribution:** Arnold hawthorn is native to Eastern Canada. For current distribution, please consult the Plant profile page for this species on the PLANTS Web site.

### Adaptation

Arnold hawthorn prefers rich, moist well-drained soils. It succeeds in excessively moist soils and can tolerate droughty conditions for a short period of time. This species is found on the slopes of coulees in open woods. This shrub or small tree grows best in a location with full sunlight. It can also be grown in exposed locations as well as tolerate city living. It can also tolerate atmospheric pollution.

### Establishment

**Propagation from Seed:** Seed is best sown as soon as it is ripe in a cold frame. It is important to protect the seeds from mice or any seed-eating creatures. Seeds can be slow to germinate. One way to reduce the waiting time is to harvest seeds just before it is fully ripe, when the embryo has fully developed but before the seedcoat hardens and sow it immediately in a cold frame. If you are growing large quantities of plants, it is best to sow them directly outdoors in a seedbed until they are large enough to out-plant. If growing small quantities, pot the seedlings as soon as they are large enough to handle and grow them in individual pots for the first year. Plant them in the late spring into nursery beds or their final positions.

### Management

Trees should be bought and planted when they are no more than eight feet in height. The best time to plant is in the fall or spring. Ball and burlap trees should

be planted in the early spring. Pruning should be done in the winter or very early spring.

**Cultivars, Improved and Selected Materials (and area of origin)**

Readily available through nurseries within its range.

**References**

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